(e) whether the shortfall in rice production would result in rice eaters switching to wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) On the basis of the monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India, 2004-05" and the population projections given by the Office of the Registrar General of India, the consumption requirement of rice in the country during 2006-07 is estimated at 88.25 million tonnes which also include seed, feed and wastage. As against this requirement, the production of rice during 2006-07 (4th advance estimates) is estimated at 92.76 million tonnes, India is a net exporter of rice.

Following the said approach, consumption requirement of wheat in the country during 2006-07 is estimated at 67.60 million tonnes as compared to its production of 69.35 million tonnes during the crop year 2005-06 which is available for consumption during marketing year 2006-07. The country imported 6.08 million tonnes of wheat during 2006-07 to augment the buffer stock. However, during 2006-07 the country produced 74.89 million tonnes of wheat which will be available for consumption during 2007-08 against estimated requirement of 68.59 million tonnes.

To increase the production of rice and wheat, the Integrated Cereals Development Programmes (ICDP) in rice and wheat based cropping systems have been under implementation since October 2000 in the country. However, in order to increase the production of rice and wheat further, recently a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" (NFSM) has also been launched from 2007-08 in the country. It aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes and wheat by 8 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.,* by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts of the country.

Decline in agriculture production

1946. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any report from the State Governments about decline in agricultural production and productivity, attributable to division of agriculture labour from fields to National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Scheme;

(b) if so, from which States; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received from the State Goverments. Both production and productivity of major agricultural crops in the country show increase since 2005-06 as shown below:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2005-06	2006-07*
Foodgrains	208.60	216.13
Oilseeds	27.98	23.88@
Sugarcane	281.17	345.31
Cotton#	18.50	22.70

*4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

#Million bales of 170 kg each.

@Production declined due to decline in area coverage

(c) As such the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which has been operational since February, 2006, does not seem to have any adverse impact on the agricultural production and productivity.

Fodder bank

1947. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is providing Central funds to the States for the establishment of fodder banks in the States to meet the exigencies in natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to Maharashtra, so far, for the purpose and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The component relating to the establishment of fodder banks was dropped from the concerned scheme with effect from 1.4.2005.

(c) Before the closure of the subject component, the State of Maharashtra was released an amount of Rs. 41.25 lakhs in 2001-02 and a similar sum in 2004-05. While the funds released in 2001-02 for establishment of a fodder bank in District Beed were utilized, the funds released in 2004-05 were refunded by the State Government.

Financial assistance for horticulture to Goa

1948. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme/schemes to give financial assistance to the State Governments for the development of horticulture;

(b) if so, the names of the schemes available with respect to various plantations/crops;

(c) the essential features of each of the schemes; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance given to the Government of Goa in the matter of each of the schemes, in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern States (TMNE) including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the remaining States and Union Territories for the development of horticulture. Under these schemes, assistance is provided for production and distribution of quality planting material of elite cultivars, establishment of new gardens, rejuvenation of senile plantations, adoption of new technologies, protected cultivation, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management/ Integrated Pest Management, organic farming, creation of water resources, Human Resource Development through training and visits, development of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing.